

Sri Lanka

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Sri Lanka GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Sri Lanka could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Sri Lanka GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Grade 8, Grade 9, and Grade 10 conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Sri Lanka. At the first stage all schools were selected to participate in the survey. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 79.1%, and the overall response rate was 79.1%. A total of 1,845 students participated in the Sri Lanka GYTS.

Prevalence

- 6.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 10.1%, Girls = 3.3%)
- 8.7% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 9.7%, Girls = 7.1%)
- 2.5% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 3.1%, Girls = 1.3%)
- 7.5% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 7.9%, Girls = 6.7%)

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 55.5% think boys and 26.3% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 52.3% think boys and 29.3% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 13.6% usually smoke at home
- 42.7% buy cigarettes in a store

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 51.3% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 68.3% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 92.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 70.9% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 41.1% have one or more parents who smoke
- 3.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 68.5% want to stop smoking
- 63.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 100% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 84.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 78.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 11.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 6.5% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 42.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 71.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 8.7% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 2.5% of students currently smoke cigarettes and 7.5% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high –half the students live in homes where others smoke and almost 7 in 10 students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; 4 in 10 students have a parent who smokes and 3.9% of students have friends who smoke.
- 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 7 in 10 current smokers want to stop smoking.
- Almost 1 in 10 students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- 8 out of 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; almost 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.